

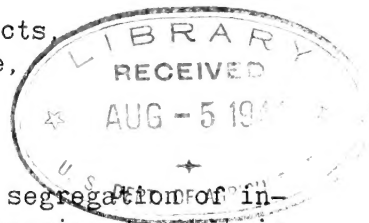
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A MOTH CATCHER FOR USE IN SEGREGATING INDIVIDUALS

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In life-history and other studies requiring the segregation of individuals from a mass culture of active moths in a rearing jar, it is difficult to capture and remove single insects. For use in work of this nature with the raisin moth, Ephestia figulilella Gregson, the writer has constructed a simple device which has proved satisfactory. It should be useful in similarly manipulating other species of insects. As shown by the diagram (fig. 1), the catcher consists of a vial ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches) wrapped at the upper end with adhesive tape. The middle of a 20-inch piece of 18-gage wire is wrapped tightly around the adhesive-tape collar, and the ends are then twisted together and bent to shape as shown.

The catcher may be inserted into the mouth of a jar and, without disturbing the resting moths within, may be set over any desired individual. Almost without exception, a moth so enclosed, when gently disturbed, will spring away from the side of the jar to the lower end of the vial. Being unable to fly in the small space, it quickly comes to rest, whereupon the catcher may be removed. By inverting the vial over the container into which the transfer is to be made, and giving the handle near the vial a sharp rap, the moth may be speedily transferred without injury and with slight danger of its escape.

For the capture of specimens resting on the under side of the curved part near the top of a mason jar, the handle may be bent so that the vial will fit over any such surface. With the handle bent at the angles shown, most of the inner surface of a 2-quart jar is accessible.

Figure 1. - Diagram of the individual moth catcher.

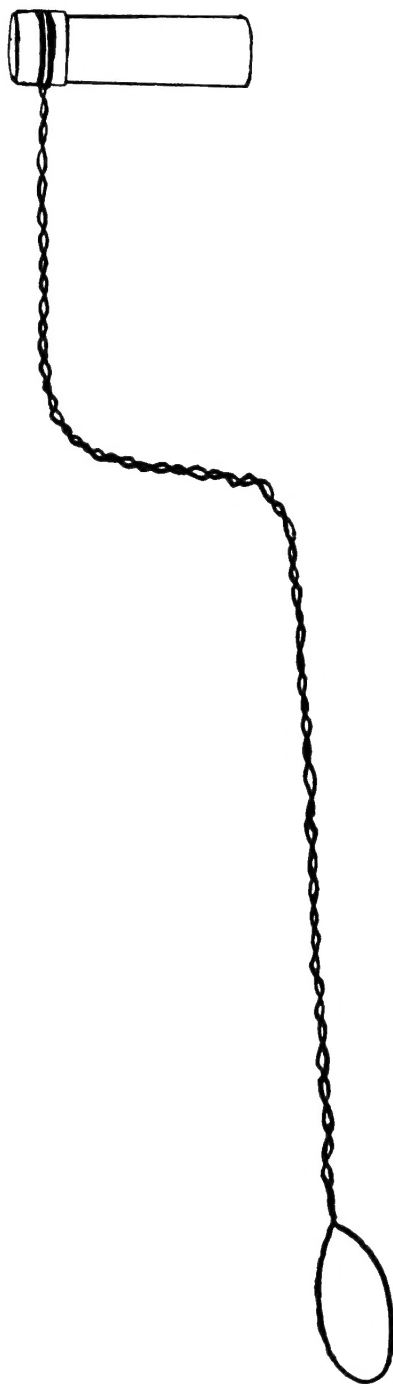


Fig. 1

